

ESTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

1945.



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The Urban District of Eston

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR J. SNOWBALL.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. T. RADGE.

Committee:

The whole of the Members of the Council constitute the
Public Health Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*** Medical Officer of Health:**

JAMES A. DUNLOP, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*** Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:**

WILLIAM LINSLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.Pc.

*** Additional Sanitary Inspector:**

ALFRED KING, C.R.S.I. (Meat and Food).

Clerks: W. VERRILL.

MRS. E. YEADON (Resigned 30.11.45).

MISS M. BRACE (From 19.11.45).

MISS E. LISTER.

Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital:

MISS J. ARTHUR.

* Contributions to Salary from Exchequer.

2

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1945.**

To the Chairman and Members of the
Eston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the health of this district for the year 1945.

I have made such comments as I consider necessary in the body of the report itself; there are, however, one or two points which call for special comment. In the first place one must record that the year under review saw the ending of the second World War as this is of undoubted significance as regards the health of the community. It is to be hoped that, freed from the strains of modern war, which is a civilian battle as well as a battle of the armed forces, the community as a whole will enter into a period of well-earned peace and plenty with resultant benefits to their general health and well-being.

With regard to the general health statistics for the year it is most disquieting to have to record a very significant increase in the Infantile Mortality rate, i.e. deaths of infants in their first year of life. With the increasing attention now given to Maternal and Child Welfare one expects these deaths to decrease and not to increase. An analysis of the deaths which is given in the report shows that:—

1. Half of these deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life and were in the main due to ante-natal causes, over which we have very little control. At the same time one wonders if these delicate infants were cared for in a special children's hospital, they might manage to overcome their birth handicap.
2. Of the remaining deaths the chief cause was an acute chest condition, either Bronchitis or Pneumonia—here again I would suggest that the indication is for greater facilities for treatment in a hospital for sick children.

In addition one must point out again the great and urgent need for more maternity beds. The need has always been great in this district, but in my opinion the situation has been made much worse by the fact that there is so much overcrowding under present conditions. Returned servicemen and women living with relatives are in an extraordinary difficult position when a birth is expected, and in the present grave housing situation little can be done for them; it is therefore imperative that they should be helped as much as possible by a more adequate provision of maternity beds.

In the year under review there has been an increase in the deaths from Tuberculosis and also an increase in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified. Having regard to conditions prevalent in the past six years, this is probably not to be wondered at. Nevertheless, the fact of these increases is a warning that there must be no relaxation in the fight against Tuberculosis.

In this regard one must point out that the fight against Tuberculosis is not solely a medical matter; economic conditions and above all, housing conditions, are vital factors. The medical treatment of Tuberculosis is continually advancing and improving, but the good results obtained will be nullified if the patients return to overcrowded houses and have to live at a low income level.

I wish to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and to my colleagues on the Staff of the Council for the help and support I have been given from them during the year. I am also grateful to the Matron and staff of the hospital for the high standard of their work and to the staff of the Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES A. DUNLOP,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Condition of the Area.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District in the mid-year 1945 was 29,150, as compared with an estimate of population for the mid-year 1944 of 28,810. During the war years estimates of population were not published, but these may now be given; comparisons are as follows:—

Registrar General's estimate, mid-year 1940	...	29,460
„ „ „ 1941	...	28,950
„ „ „ 1942	...	28,550
„ „ „ 1943	...	28,010
„ „ „ 1944	...	28,810
„ „ „ 1945	...	29,150

GENERAL STATISTICS.

I am indebted to the Council's Accountant who has supplied me with the following statistics:—

Area of the District (acres)	...	...	...	...	5,559
Number of inhabited houses (end 1945) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	8,026
Rateable value (September, 1945)	...	...	...	...	£135,875
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	£519/2/6

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The war-time economic prosperity continued during the year with consequent benefit to the general health of the community. From my work as School Medical Inspector and as Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Centres, I have again formed the opinion that the health of the school children remains particularly good and that the nursing mothers have also shown a good general standard of health. There is a very definite and striking improvement in the general health of the two sections of the community I have named as compared with the situation prevailing when I came here over 10 years ago, in the years of the industrial depression.

With regard to the school children I think this is largely due to the provision of milk and meals in the schools. The school meals have proved themselves to be a sound investment and their extension to include all school children is a very wise move. The improved health of the mothers is, I think, a proof of the importance to health of an income above the bare existence level.

During the year this Council endeavoured to institute a scheme of Domestic Helps, the purpose of which was to provide domestic help in any home where by reason of sickness such help was necessary. Unfortunately, we failed in all our attempts to enrol a sufficient number of helps. Probably the reason was that so many of those women who might have undertaken the work were engaged in industry. The scheme has, in my opinion, so much to commend it that it is very desirable that the matter should be pursued further.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births:				Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	...	...	521	271	250
	Illegitimate	...	...	59	35	24

Birth ~~Death~~ Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 20.3.
(Rate for England and Wales: 16.1)

Still Births:				Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	...	...	22	14	8
	Illegitimate	...	...	4	2	2
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births:				20.8	<i>42.9</i>	

DEATHS.

Total	Male	Female
338	186	152

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 11.6.
(Rate for England and Wales: 11.4)

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	67.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	63.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	101.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	55
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	5

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS.

The deaths which occurred during the year, divided into age groups, are as follows:—

39 deaths under one year of age.						
3	„	over 1 year and under 5 years.				
2	„	5	„	10	„	
2	„	10	„	15	„	
12	„	15	„	25	„	
30	„	25	„	45	„	
79	„	45	„	65	„	
88	„	65	„	75	„	
83	„	75	„	of age.		

ANALYSIS OF INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1945.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 4 w'ks	1 - 3 m'ths	3 - 6 m'ths	6 - 9 m'ths	9 - 12 m'ths	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncp- Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	3	4	1	—	9
Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Gastro-Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	4
Pneumonia Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
^a Atelectasis of Lungs	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	3	4	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Icterus Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Cardiac Abnormality	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Debility	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Marasmus	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Immaturity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	9	7	2	2	20	6	10	2	1	39

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	13	5
Tuberculosis (other forms)	7	—
Influenza	2	—
Measles	1	—
Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	33	21
Diabetes	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	20	19
Heart Disease	37	38
Other Circulatory Diseases	7	6
Bronchitis	17	13
Pneumonia	10	5
Ulcer of Stomach	2	1
Diarrhoea (under 2)	2	3
Other Digestive Diseases	4	3
Nephritis	3	5
Puerperal Sepsis	—	1
Premature Birth	4	3
Congenital Malformation Birth Injuries	6	6
Suicide	4	2
Other violent causes	4	5
All other causes	10	14

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health
Services in the Area.

The details of the Staff are incorporated at the beginning of the Report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the War an Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service was established. For this area the appropriate Laboratory was situated at Northallerton, and we sent there all specimens for examination. During the year 107 throat swabs were sent for examination and in addition specimens for examination were sent in the following cases:—

- 6 cases suspected Meningitis.
- 1 case suspected Typhoid Fever.
- 1 case Puerperal Pyrexia.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

For Infectious Diseases the Council has at present 2 ambulances. For the general needs of the district an ambulance is provided and maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association. I am indebted to Mr. McCallum, Superintendent of the Ambulance Brigade, for the following brief report on the ambulance service provided.

"For accidents and non-infectious cases, a motor ambulance, which is the property of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, is employed.

"It is reported that during the year 1945, the Brigade's ambulance conveyed 416 patients between their homes and the local hospitals. They also conveyed 36 patients from the local works, injured through work accidents, and four road accident patients, all to the local hospitals. This made a total of 456 patients, which necessitated the ambulance travelling 4,259 miles.

"In the early part of the year the Brigade's ambulance was out of commission for a time for extensive overhaul and repairs and during this period they were given the use of a Civil Defence Ambulance. This ambulance conveyed 334 patients to hospital and travelled 3,936 miles. The total number of miles travelled was 8,195.

"Owing to the increased number of calls the Brigade has decided to purchase a second ambulance so that they can provide an efficient Ambulance Service for the area."

With reference to the work done by the Civil Defence Ambulances noted in the above report, the Civil Defence Service closed in the middle of the year. The St. John's Ambulance Association were then in some difficulty in having to maintain the Service. After discussion with Members of this Council it was agreed that the Association continued their work and that the extra expense necessary to provide drivers would be met by this Council. This arrangement is still in force and appears to be working most satisfactorily.

NURSING IN THE HOMES.

As in previous years, the area was served by three Nursing Associations in South Bank, Grangetown and Eston and Normanby. On referring to the work done by these associations one notices that all three associations do a very consider-

able amount of work in connection with Maternity and Midwifery. All the indications are that this work is of the very highest standard and is a credit to the associations. While one must pay tribute to the general excellence and efficiency of the work of these voluntary nursing associations, I am of the opinion, particularly with reference to the Midwifery Services, that it would be to the advantage of the district as a whole if the three associations were combined into one body to cover the whole area.

The following is a brief statement of the activities of the Nursing Associations in the area.

South Bank Association.

Four whole-time fully qualified nurses are employed who made the following visits during the year:—

General	...	...	...	3269
Midwifery	...	...	...	3893
Ante-Natal, Post Natal	...			2220
Casual Visits	...	...	...	225
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	108
				<hr/>
				9715
				<hr/>

Eston, Normanby, Ormesby and Wilton Association.

This Association employs two whole-time fully qualified nurses, who made the following visits during the year:—

General	...	...	...	2296
Midwifery and Maternity	...			2200
Post and Ante-Natal	...			1023
Casual Visits	...	...	...	591
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	226
				<hr/>
				6436
				<hr/>

Grangetown Association.

This Association employs three whole-time fully qualified nurses, who made the following visits during the year:—

General	...	...	...	3011
Midwifery and Maternity	...			2129
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	324
Casual Visits	...	...	...	118
				<hr/>
				5582
				<hr/>

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

All clinics and treatment centres in the area are administered by the North Riding County Council.

HOSPITALS—PUBLIC AND VOLUNTARY.

Apart from the Infectious Diseases Hospital, there is no hospital in the area belonging to the local authority or with which the local authority have made arrangements for the admission of patients.

SECTION C.

Details of the sanitary circumstances in the area coming under this section are dealt with in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION D.**Housing.**

There were no new houses erected during the year either by the local authority or by private enterprise.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1431
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2024
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	nil
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1431

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers ... 1570

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

There were no statutory proceedings taken during the year under Sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 16 of the Housing Act, 1936, or under the Public Health Acts.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

To state the number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year could only be a rough estimate which may be very misleading. Owing to the number of men and women returning from H.M. Forces, especially those who had married during the War and had no homes of their own, the overcrowding of their parents' homes and those where rooms had to be taken could not be recorded, and until a new housing survey, similar to that made in 1936, is taken the state of overcrowding cannot be arrived at with any degree of accuracy.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Records of the work carried out under the various headings of the section are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.

Prevalence and Control Over Infectious Diseases.

As compared with the previous year in connection with Infectious Diseases, one rates a decrease in the number of cases of Measles, Diphtheria and Pneumonia and an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough. These variations are so small as to be of no special significance. With regard to the cases of Diphtheria, it will probably

be ^{noted} ~~rated~~ that of 42 cases sent into hospital as Diphtheria, 24 only were proved definitely by bacteriological examination to be cases of this disease. The explanation of this is that I have always made it my policy to encourage the Doctors in the area to send into hospital any case which has the slightest possibility of being a case of Diphtheria, so that while we wait for the confirmation of the diagnosis, the necessary treatment can be given. When one considers the difficulties in the diagnosis of an early case of Diphtheria, I feel that this policy of "better to be safe than to be sorry" is fully justified and I am very pleased to say that in this connection I have the full co-operation of the local practitioners.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the Immunising against Diphtheria continued satisfactorily. Monthly sessions for this purpose were held at the Branch School and, in all, 448 children under 15 years of age received a full course of injections. Of these children immunised, 397 were under school age and this is a very satisfactory feature, because, since approximately 90% of school children in the district have been immunised, we have concentrated during the year on children under 5 years of age; of whom approximately 70% have been immunised. Diphtheria is most deadly in the earliest years of life, and that is why it is so essential to have children immunised at an early age, preferably before they reach their first birthday. When one considers that statistics showed that for the years 1942-43 children who had not been immunised had a 23 times greater risk of dying from Diphtheria than had children who had been immunised, one feels that no parent would hesitate, but unfortunately there are all too many parents who appear to be indifferent. There is a further point in connection with Immunisation to which attention must be drawn. The Ministry of Health started the nation-wide campaign in 1941 to protect this country against the grave risk of Diphtheria spreading from European countries, where it then was, and still is, very prevalent. The war is over, but the risk remains, possibly increased by the free communications between this country and the Continent. In 1941 the serum used was in very short supply and minimum doses had to be used, the idea being to give as many children as possible some degree of protection rather than trying to give a smaller number more complete protection. These small doses will not protect for so long a time as the larger doses now being used. It is therefore necessary and desirable that all children who were immunised more than 4 years ago should be given a Reinforcing or "Booster" dose now to increase their protection against Diphtheria.

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) IN AGE GROUPS.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														TOTAL DEATHS.										
Under 1 Year		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	4	4	9	11	64	25	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	2	3	4	8	2	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	10	37	28	22	25	38	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	11	10	5	10	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro- Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Chicken- pox	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals: 14		54	44	39	51	112	28	4	16	8	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a table of particulars of infectious disease treated at the Isolation Hospital during 1945.

Disease	No. of cases admitted	No. in at 31/12/44.	No. of cases discharged or died	No. in hospital at 31/12/45.
Diphtheria	42	6	41	7
Scarlet Fever	112	9	117	4
Suspected Typhoid	1	-	1	-
Measles	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	-	8	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	4	-	4	-
Suspected Meningitis	2	-	2	-
T.B. Meningitis	1	-	1	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1	-	1	-
Enteritis and Pneumonia	1	-	1	-
Chickenpox & Dermatitis	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	2	-
Septicaemia	1	-	1	-
Osteomyelitis	1	-	1	-
Measles and Pneumonia	1	-	1	-
Dysentery (Sus.)	1	-	1	-
Totals :—	180	15	184	11

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE WARDS.

	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas
North West	31	9	10	-	1	2	1	-
Grangetown	6	14	3	1	4	1	2	-
Normanby	79	24	2	22	-	2	2	2
Harcourt	3	11	4	1	-	1	2	1
Branch	2	5	3	2	1	1	-	-
Central	34	32	13	3	2	2	1	2
South Bank	1	19	5	4	-	2	1	-
Tilery	5	10	2	7	-	-	-	1
Totals :—	161	124	42	40	8	11	9	6

* Of the 42 cases of Diphtheria admitted, 24 proved to be positive and 18 were negative.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year and of all deaths from this disease are shown in the following table in age groups:—

Age Periods	Cases Notified				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and 5 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5 and 10 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
10 and 15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 and 20 years	2	4	1	—	—	1	2	—
20 and 25 years	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 and 35 years	3	3	1	—	3	3	—	—
35 and 45 years	4	2	2	—	5	1	3	—
45 and 55 years	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 and 65 years	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	14	10	10	1	13	5	7	—

The deaths from this cause show an increase of 5 on those for the previous year. The total number of cases notified show an increase of 6 as compared with those for 1944 (7 for pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 non-pulmonary).

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Eston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my thirtieth Annual Report dealing with the work of the Sanitary Department during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

All my previous Annual Reports since 1938 have been affected by war-time conditions and restrictions which have considerably affected the routine work. The present report is only partly affected by war conditions as the European conflict ceased in May, and immediately afterwards there was an early attempt to get back to normal conditions. With this in view, I feel that the time is opportune to briefly survey the position during those anxious years which, in my opinion, has put our sanitary administration so far back that it will take some considerable time and much work to regain our previous standards and progress.

When the war commenced, several important and progressive new Acts of Parliament, Regulations and Bye-laws had been passed, but had only recently become operative.

Under the Housing Act, 1936, much progress had been made, the rehousing of overcrowded and badly housed families had been reduced to a minimum, many unfit houses had been demolished or closed, whilst others had extensive reconditioning repairs carried out. This work was seriously affected during the war period; labour and materials became scarce and in consequence only minimum repairs to keep houses wind and weatherproof could be dealt with.

The more recent Acts of Parliament, such as the Factories Act, which became operative on 1st July, 1938, and the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, which became operative on 1st October, 1939, could not be administered satisfactorily, especially as regards the requirements and regular supervision. Alterations of shop closing hours, staff difficulties and lighting restrictions affected requirements under the Shops Acts. Private slaughtering by butchers and the closing of cattle markets affected what had been regular supervision of the meat supplies.

New demands for services were caused by Air Raid Precautions which included the training of personnel in general decontamination and food decontamination. The provision and supervision of Expedient Mortuaries, Report Centre training, and the continual filling in of forms, dealing with instructions, returns and reports. The provision, equipment and staffing of the British Restaurants and the dealing with restricted fuel supplies.

Half the year had passed when the war ended and whilst Civil Defence and other war-time duties were greatly reduced, winding up responsibilities continued, but grew less, as the year proceeded. Great hopes of early reconstruction were not realised, as labour became more plentiful materials became more difficult to obtain and licensing by the Ministry of Works came into operation.

When the war commenced two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors were employed. In 1943 one of these resigned and his position was not filled; this left only one assistant, who has since retired on age limit.

Generally, everything possible was done to maintain general inspections, but owing to the difficulties already mentioned, only the smaller repairs could be dealt with and in consequence the standard of housing, so far as being in all respects fit for habitation is concerned, still leaves much to be desired.

It is satisfactory to note that during the whole war period a regular weekly collection of household refuse was maintained although severely hampered by the erection of communal air raid shelters in the back streets. The collection of Salvage, which was begun in 1940, was well organised and good results were obtained, the results being submitted to your Committee at half-yearly intervals. There were no troubles worthy of note concerning labour connected with the public cleansing work during the whole war period.

Details of the various branches of the work, with explanations, are set out under the appropriate headings.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council and the Public Health Committee for their continued support and consideration and to the Officers, Staff and Workmen of the Council for the ready co-operation and help that I have at all time received from them in the discharge of my many and varied duties.

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM LINSLEY,

Senior Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

WATER.

There were no new sources of public water supply, or extension of mains, with the exception of those being laid in connection with the development of sites for new houses.

During the previous year samples of the water contained in emergency water tanks were taken and in each case was found to be satisfactory. As these supplies became redundant in May, no further samples were taken. No complaints were received from householders regarding the quantity or quality of the water supplies.

The water supply of the Eston Urban District is received from the Tees Valley Water Board. Being upland surface water, it is naturally of a soft nature, containing approximately six to seven degrees of hardness, which makes it very suitable for household uses, drinking purposes and heating installations without having any solvent action on metals.

It may be of interest to your Council to know that the Tees Valley Water Board's catchment area covers approximately 30,000 acres; their impounding reservoirs have a capacity of approximately 2,655 million gallons and are situated between 925 and 1,000 feet above ordnance datum. Samples of the water are taken regularly in the District by officers of the Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

With the exception of extensions by the Council in connection with the development of housing sites, there was no alteration of the existing sewerage system. Generally speaking, the method of sewerage disposal is by emptying into the River Tees within Tidal flow. Two small housing estates have their own sewerage plants owing to there being no public sewer available. One of these plants is efficient, the other, which was not efficient, was reported upon to the appropriate Committee of your Council, and although steps were being taken to have it put in order, the work had not been carried out when the year closed.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is no river running through the District and the streams, which are small, rising on the high ground of the Eston hills, caused no flooding except on rare occasions during torrential rain, after which, any local flooding soon subsided, giving no cause for serious complaint.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It is now twenty-two years since the general conversion from pail closets to water closets was carried out. The scheme was financed by the raising of a loan of approximately £30,000 for a thirty year period, about £13,500 of which was still to be repaid at the end of the financial year. With the exception of approximately 50 dry closets which could not be converted, owing to drainage difficulties, the whole of the district is on the water carriage system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

There was no outstanding change of policy in the public cleansing services during the year and very few complaints in connection with the regular collection of house and shop refuse were received.

The cost of the public cleansing services again showed an increase which was mainly due to higher wages and the difficulties experienced in refuse collection owing to the communal air raid shelters in the back streets. It is hoped that these will be dismantled as soon as possible to facilitate the work and reduce costs.

Referring to the high cost of public cleansing, I would point out that whilst increases in wages is in some measure responsible for this, the improved service conditions of the workers, particularly with regard to sick pay, was reflected in the departmental costs. 425 days' work were lost owing to sickness, 780 days for national and other holidays, and 537 days' absenteeism.

Refuse Collection.

Four motor refuse collecting vehicles are employed on this work, each having a defined round in order that the whole district may be serviced in the week. The days and times of calling are very regular except when the work is delayed owing to weather conditions or mechanical breakdown. There is full work for the vehicles we have, but when either of the above conditions prevail or when holidays delay the regular collection, routine work breaks down and it takes time, especially in winter, to regain the time lost. Under these conditions it is essential that a further van should be purchased to cope with these and other emergencies. The only serious complaints received during the year were due to the causes stated,

Refuse Disposal.

The method of refuse disposal continued to be by tipping after sorting in the disused workings of a clay pit attached to a brick works near to the eastern boundary of the District and upwards of a mile from the nearest houses. This tip was opened in July, 1939, when a lease was entered into with the brick company which terminates in February, 1947. It was anticipated that there would be sufficient accommodation for our refuse for many years to come but, at the time of writing this report, it is apparent that the chances of any renewal of the lease or even continuing the tenancy is very remote, owing to the land having been purchased for the erection of extensive steel plant buildings. Under these circumstances other arrangements will have to be made as soon as possible for alternate means of disposing of the refuse.

Salvage.

The collection of salvage and kitchen waste is carried out by means of trailers attached to the refuse collecting vehicles. The workmen receive a bonus for this work based on the sales value of salvaged materials which is calculated and paid out monthly.

There was a noticeable reduction in the collection of salvage during the year and the income from this source was seriously affected. Sales during the year produced £982, against £1,474 for the previous year. This can be accounted for by two main reasons; firstly, householders lost interest in saving salvage, especially waste paper which was our highest remunerative salvage, and, secondly, much waste paper, rags, etc., had to be wasted owing to the bad weather conditions in the early part of the year. It was unfortunate that people should think that with the end of the war the saving of salvage was unnecessary. It was further unfortunate that peace did not bring plenty and the paper mills could not be kept working full time owing to the shortage of waste paper supplies. As special reports are prepared on the collection and sale of salvage each half year and submitted to your Council for consideration, it would not appear necessary to pursue the matter in detail further in this report.

Street Sweeping.

This work continued to be carried out by manual labour, which is organised on the beat system. Most of the apparent neglect sometimes noticed was due to holidays and sickness among the workmen.

There are approximately 57 miles of streets within the District; 35 miles are front streets and classified roads, whilst 22 miles are paved back streets. The length of classified (County) roads is 8.3 miles; the cost of sweeping, weeding and gully cleaning is borne jointly by the North Riding County Council and the Urban District Council. Previously the County made a monetary grant on mileage basis, but since 31st March, 1944, a system of grants based on percentages of actual cost has been in operation for sweeping and total costs for gully cleaning and snow removal.

Gully Cleaning.

During the year the number of street gully cleansings was 13,965. All street and road gullies are cleansed at intervals of approximately three weeks. This work continued to be done by horse drawn tumbler carts. The horse and driver are supplied under contract, the driver assisting a workman of the department in the work.

Sewer Flushing.

The flushing of main sewers, which is carried out by hired horse contract, is somewhat similar to the work of gully cleaning except that the vehicle consists of a 350 gallon horse drawn tank waggon with attachment to allow the water to empty into the manholes or flushing eyes with sufficient speed and quantity as to give the necessary flush to clear any temporary obstructions or solids, especially where the flow of the sewer is sluggish owing to insufficient fall.

Owing to the difficulty in obtaining hired horse labour, and in view of the sewers being extended in connection with new housing sites, the purchase of a motor vehicle fitted with appliances for gully emptying, flushing apparatus and water spraying would increase the efficiency of the work.

Snow Removal and Road Gritting.

The cost of snow removal and gritting for the Winter, 1944-45, was approximately £800, most of which was rechargeable for keeping the classified main roads clear for traffic. Heavy falls of snow and unusually low temperatures were experienced during the early months of the year. Good results were obtained by the use of a patent anti-frost extract which was spread lightly on the roads and helped considerable in preventing frost and reducing snow. Temporary labour was not available but good results were obtained by the co-operation of the Surveyor's department workmen, who were taken over for the work, and by the ready help of the refuse collecting staff, who worked on snow ploughing and road grit-

ting late into the night and before traffic appeared on the roads in the morning. The snow ploughs are fitted to the front of the motor refuse collecting vehicles and a road gritting machine has also an attachment for coupling with a motor vehicle. It will be appreciated that when the refuse vans are being used for snow ploughing and removal, the collection of refuse has, for the time being, to be discontinued.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

General Sanitary Inspection.

The following is a tabulated statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Bye-laws in force within the Urban Area.

	Inspections	Visits
Dwelling Houses inspected under Public Health Act, &c.		893
Dwelling Houses (reinspection) under above		430
Dwelling Houses (work in progress) under above		41
Interviews with Builders, Owners and others		1358
Complaints investigated		525
Inspection of:—		
Bakehouses		12
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops		40
Slaughterhouses and Distributing Depot		362
Markets and Food Stores		108
Factories and Workplaces		42
Schools		14
Public Halls and other Buildings		14
Fish and Fried Fish Shops		22
Courts and Common Yards		1
Conveniences (Public)		27
Rat Infested Premises (excluding survey visits)		58
Infectious Disease		257
Fumigations		142
Drain Examinations		218
Under Food and Drugs Acts		40
Scavenging, Cleansing and Salvage		630
Under Petroleum Acts		29
Miscellaneous visits not enumerated above		445

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER NOTICES SERVED.

The various works which were completed under notices served, or after intimation had been given to the owners or occupiers, are set out below.

House and General.

Number of:—

Chimneys and Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	441
Spoutings and rainwater pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	155
Walls rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	33
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	37
Ceilings and plasters repaired	...	...	...	...	63
Window frames and sash cords repaired	...	...	...	...	55
Fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	79
Doors and frames repaired	...	...	...	...	70
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	24
Setpots repaired	...	...	...	...	19
House water supplies repaired	...	...	...	...	72
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse bins renewed	...	...	...	...	808
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	4

House Drainage.

Number of:—

Vent pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Drains tested, relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	15
New gullies, traps or grids provided	...	...	...	...	31
Stoppages in drains removed by Owners	...	...	...	...	71
Stoppages in drains removed by Council without Notices being served	...	...	...	...	807

Water Closets.

Number of:—

Water supplies repaired	...	...	...	...	143
Cisterns renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Basins renewed	...	...	...	...	5
Seats and flush pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Stoppages in drains removed by Owners	...	...	...	...	58
Stoppages in drains removed by Council without Notices being served	...	...	...	...	176

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the District; the last one (Munby Hostel) was closed during March, 1943.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received during the year was 525. The larger number of these were requests to have inspections made for the repair of houses, stopped drains or defective refuse bins.

Housing repairs could not be dealt with as quickly or as fully as could be wished owing to restrictions and labour difficulties. The supply of refuse bins was restricted by government quota schemes, but the District was able to secure 808 to satisfy Sanitary Notices and many more would be sold for which no Notice had been served. So far as drain stoppage complaints are concerned, 983 stoppages were removed by the Department's workmen by plunging and without Notices being served. This arrangement has been in force in the District for some years and has proved to be the quickest and most economical way of getting rid of a most inconvenient and objectionable nuisance.

The number and nature of the complaints were:—

Stoppages in yard and water closet drains	...	...	126
For the repair of houses	...	...	152
Dilapidated refuse bins	...	...	119
Verminous conditions	...	...	57
Defective water services	...	...	55
Miscellaneous	...	...	16

SHOPS.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, requiring sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, adequate lighting and ventilation and the maintenance of reasonable temperature in shops received attention whenever possible, but owing to fuel restrictions temperatures could not generally be enforced. Much good work was done in an informal manner and many improvements were effected. These matters are receiving careful attention when new shops are being opened and where alterations take place. With regard to the closing hours of shops under the Act of 1912, this is affected by the supply position and by war restrictions. Until rationing is eased or abolished there will be little alteration in the tendency to close early and more often as there is no useful purpose served by extending hours under present conditions.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The only smoke that is troublesome in the District is produced by the heavy industries situated in the northern part of the area and adjoining the banks of the River Tées.

The nuisance is worst when the wind is from the North and North-East, which carries the smoke from the steel industries to the greater inhabited parts of the District.

It is difficult to deal with this kind of nuisance as the smelting of ores and minerals, the calcining, puddling and rolling of iron and other metals and the conversion of pig iron into wrought iron are exempted in so far as the Act must not be construed so as to interfere with or obstruct the efficient workings of these operations (Section 109, Public Health Act, 1936). To these exemptions is also added further conditions prescribed under the Alkali, etc., Works Regulation, 1906.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the Urban District.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The number of infested premises brought to my notice was not so many as in the previous year. The usual method of disinfestation employed was fumigation and spraying after skirtings and mouldings had been removed. Towards the end of the year a preparation known as D.D.T., which had been used by H.M. Forces with good effect, was being released for general use, but had not been sufficiently tried to express an opinion of its merits.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

The supervision of these premises was affected owing to so many other demands on our time. Two Notices of minor defects were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories and related to lavatory accommodation for the use of employees engaged on outside occupations. The small number of contraventions under the Act which came to my notice were remedied by informal action.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

All meat (Home killed and Frozen) supplies in the District are received from the Central Slaughtering Establishment, which is under the direction of the Ministry of Food in the adjoining County Borough. The meat is delivered by motor van to a distributing depot at South Bank and allocated to the various butchers. The fresh killed meat is inspected at the Central Slaughter House at the time of slaughter and the frozen meat is inspected at the wholesale establishments. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the quantity of meat found to be unfit for food at the distributing depot is small. When unfit meat is found either on delivery or when being cut up for sale, it is sent back to the Central Slaughter House to be dealt with by the Ministry of Food official, who is responsible for its disposal.

Tinned meats (corned beef and mutton) which arrive at the distributing depot in cases which have not been opened for inspection, are sometimes found to be blown, rusted or punctured. 176 tins of this meat, having a total weight of 717 lbs., were found to be unfit for food.

Centralised slaughtering is a wartime measure introduced by the Ministry of Food to facilitate more even distribution in connection with their rationing policy. Before the war the butchers bought their animals in open market and slaughtered them in their private slaughter houses, of which there were eleven in the District. The slaughter houses were well conducted and the carcasses carefully dressed and stored previous to sale, which gave the meat a good appearance and keeping quality. Under the present system the dressing is not so good and the continual handling, heaping into vans, loading and unloading detracts from the appearance of the meat and affects the keeping quality.

455 visits were made during the year in connection with meat and food inspection; the approximate quantities of meat which passed through the distributing depot, exclusive of offals, were:—

Fresh Killed.

Sides of Beef ...	2,292	Sheep and Lambs	4,720
Pigs	278	Calves	319

Imported.

Fore and Hind-quarters of Beef	924	Sheep and Lambs	9,454
Pigs	884	Calves	25

There were also 619 bags and 514 cases of pork joints, 131 bags of manufacturing beef and 147 bags of other manufacturing meats.

Apart from unsatisfactory or unfit meat returned to the Central Slaughtering Establishment, the following various foods were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

Fresh killed beef	...	...	...	44 lbs.
Fish, wet	...	...	...	294 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	34 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	12 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	57 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	64 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Cocoa	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Tinned Meats	...	...	...	255 tins
„ Fish	...	...	...	51 tins
„ Milk	...	...	...	105 tins
„ Soups	...	...	...	20 tins
„ Fruit	...	...	...	9 tins
„ Jams	...	...	...	49 tins
„ Cereals	...	...	...	59 tins
Carton Cereals	...	...	...	85 cartons
Packets Pudding, etc., Powders	...	...	...	322 packets

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Under this Act, no person may slaughter or stun any animal in a slaughter house unless he is in possession of licence. These licences are granted by the Council to applicants who are considered fit and proper persons of eighteen years of age or over. The licences are renewable yearly and each case is reported upon when the applications are considered by the appropriate Committee. The number of licences held by persons in the Eston area at the end of the year was 21, most of whom are, or have been engaged in, the butchering business. Most of these persons have only killed pigs for private owners for bacon since slaughtering was centralised. The number of pigs killed privately for bacon and inspected during the year was 154.

Food Stores and Markets.

Many of the unfit foods enumerated were taken from food shops and stores. It has now become known to the tradesmen of these premises that whenever they receive doubtful or obviously unfit foods in tins, cartons or packets they should notify the department with a view to having the

food inspected which, when found to be unfit or out of condition, are certified. The certificate is made out in duplicate, one to recover the points value from the Food Office and one to present to the supplier in order to have the goods replaced.

The South Bank street market, which was so flourishing on Fridays before the war, was gradually reduced during the war years to only two or three stalls, but, during the year, especially towards the end, there was a noticeable return of the old stall holders, who soon sold out of the goods they were able to offer.

Fish Shops.

22 visits were made to inspect shops from where wet and fried fish was being sold; no serious nuisance was found and minor suggestions were attended to. There is very little fish offal for disposal as wet fish is now received after being headed and gutted by the senders.

Bakehouses.

All the bakehouses in the District were inspected for cleanliness and hygienic conditions of bread and confectionery production. The necessary limewashing and cleansing were found to be satisfactory and it was only found necessary to draw attention to several small matters.

MILK SUPPLY.

Cowsheds.

There are 12 cowsheds in the District, one being discontinued during the year. The approximate number of dairy cows kept by producers was approximately 162, of which 122 were in milk at the end of the year. Five producers sell all their milk wholesale, five sell all retail, and two sell part wholesale and part retail. All the cowsheds were visited at least twice during the year to ensure that the limewashing had been carried out. At two cowsheds improvements were being carried out with a view to the producers obtaining "Accredited" licences.

There were no producers in the District who hold either "Accredited" or T.T. licences, and there are no premises licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. Two dairies having premises outside the District hold supplementary licences issued by your Council to sell "Pasteurised" milk within the Eston Urban Area.

Dairies and Milkshops.

These premises were usually inspected when milk samples were being taken; generally speaking, they are well conducted and both the premises and churns were kept in a clean condition. The number of persons selling milk is much less than when sterilised milk in sealed bottles was available. The tendency for this business to be conducted by multiple stores has increased considerably during war years owing, no doubt, to the scarcity, processing and rationing of milk.

Milk Sampling.

32 informal samples of new milk were taken for analysis all of which were tested in the Department for fat content, specific gravity, added water and dirt in suspension. The highest fat content recorded was 4.9% and the lowest 3.0%. The average of all samples being 3.4%.

The standard of fat set up by the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1901, is 3.0%, below which it is presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the milk is not genuine. The standard for non-fatty solids is 8.5%.

All the samples were passed through cotton wool filter pads to ascertain the dirt content, and by hydrometer to ascertain the correct specific gravity, which is naturally disturbed by the addition of water or the extraction of fat. Where necessary the attention of the vendor or producer was drawn to the results of the sampling and the necessity of clean production and distribution impressed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION.

399 visits were made in connection with infectious disease. All cases enumerated in the report of the Medical Officer of Health were visited as early as possible after notification, and full enquiries were made with a view to tracing the source of the infection. The fumigation of the premises, together with such bedding and clothing as was necessary, was carried out as speedily as possible.

The following is an analysis of the premises disinfected during the year:—

Houses	Rooms	Cause
115	447	Scarlet Fever.
36	150	Diphtheria.
19	36	Tuberculosis.
13	23	Other medical causes.
21	71	Other causes.
—	—	
204	727	
—	—	

Many lots of old, verminous or contact bedding after illnesses causing soiling were removed and destroyed. Any request to remove and destroy any such articles must be accompanied by a card intimating that no claim against the Council for compensation will be made.

PETROLEUM STORAGE.

The licensing of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit has for many years been carried out by the Department. During the war most installations were emptied and the tanks filled with water. Only those stores which were essential were licensed to continue, but, by the end of the year, some of the stores were again being put to use. There are 32 premises where storage installations exist and the total storage of these is 3,463,280 gallons. At one factory a store is licensed for cellulose solution.

Petroleum storage plants are visited at intervals and always reported upon when applications for the renewal of licences are being considered by the appropriate Committee.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION. (Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.)

At the end of the previous year both a "Surface Survey" and a "Sewer Treatment" in connection with the destruction of rats were well in hand. The work had to be discontinued in the January of the year under review owing to weather conditions, but was restarted in March. The surface survey was completed and also the sewer treatment, after which a second sewer treatment was carried out. Complete records were made of the work and action taken and submitted to the Ministry of Food, Infestation Branch, by whom financial contribution for the work was made.

CONCLUSION.

Owing to this report being presented to a newly elected Council, many Members of which have not previously served, I have made several explanations, which I hope will enable Members to appreciate the working of the various branches of the Department.

